Growth rate of Indian exports hit by IPRS Withdrawal

30. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the withdrawal of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) have substantially brought down the growth rate of Indian exports during April-May period of the current year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As against an export growth of 20% in dollar terms during 1993-94 for engineering goods, during April-May, 1994, it has slowed down to 5% primarily on account of decline in exports of primary and semi-finished iron and steel items.

(b) Facility of duty free import of raw materials is available to engineering goods exporters under the advance licensing scheme.

Promtion of trade with South Africa

31. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to help promote active trade and economic ties with South Africa; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has taken various steps to promote trade and economic ties with South Africa. Some of these are:

— Commissioning of studies by Export Import Bank of India on potential for India-South Africa trade and on the shipping services with South Africa.

— Visit of a delegation led by H.E. Mr. David Graaff the then Minister of Trade of South Africa to India during November, 1993.

— Visit of a business delegation led by our Minister of State for Commerce to South Africa during January, 1994. Another 103-strong delegation of FIEO also visited South Africa during the same month.

— Organising seminar on trade and investment opportunities by FIEO in South Africa during January, 1994.

— Organising an exclusive Indian Exhibition scheduled in South Africa in the month of August, 1994 which is likely to be inaugurated by the Commerce Minister.

देश-वार आयात

32. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1991–92, 1992–93 और 1993–94 के दौरान किये गये आयात का देशवार ब्यौरा क्या है और उसका मूल्य कितना कितना है ; और

(ख) सरकार द्वारा आयात को कम करने और निर्यात बढ़ाने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए गये हैं अथवा उठाए जाने का विचार है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) वर्ष 1991–92, 1992–93 एवं 1993–94 के दौरान किए गए आयातों के देशवार आकड़े वा०जा० एवं सं० महानिदेशालय, कलकत्ता द्वारा प्रकाशित भारत के विदेश व्यापार के आंकड़े (मुख्य मदें तथा देश) के क्रमश: मार्च, 1992, मार्च, 1993 तथा मार्च, 1994 के अंकों में

उपलब्ध है। वार्षिक आधार पर प्रकाशित की जाने वाली यह विवरिणिका लोक सभा पुस्तकालय को उपलब्ध कराई जाती है। वर्ष 1991-92, 1992-93 तथा 1993-94 के दौरान भारत को किए गए आयात का सकल मूल्य नीचे दिया गया है :—

वर्ष	करोड़ रु० में	मिलियन अमरीका डालर
1991-92	47851	19411
1992-93	63375	21882
1993-94	72806	23212

(ख) हमारे अधिकांश आयात घरेलू खपत के लिए वस्तुओं के निर्यात तथा निर्यात उत्पादन के लिए आवश्यक निदेश हैं। निर्यात संवर्धन एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है, तथा सरकार और व्यापार एवं उद्योग के बीच सहयोगपूर्ण प्रयास है। व्यापार, उद्योग तथा निर्यात संवर्धन संगठनों के साथ विचार विमर्श करके निर्यात बढ़ाने के लिए कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं। राज्यों से और ज्यादा सहयोग मांगा जा रहा है तथा उस संबंध में सरकार ने केन्द्र द्वारा सहायता प्राप्त निर्यात संवर्धन औद्योगिक पार्क (ई पी आई पी) स्कीम नामक एक योजना तैयार की है।

Implication of auctioning rupee credits credits

33. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the recent visit to Moscow the Commerce Minister discussed with the host Government the implications of auctioning Rupee credits;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme that have been provided by the Russian Government; and

(c) the implications of this that have been examined and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The issue of auctions of a part of debt repayment funds owned by India to Russia, came up for discussion during the Commerce Minister's talks with Russian Ministers, in the course of Prime Minister's visit to Moscow (29 June—2 July, 1994).

(b) and (c) The Russian Government conveyed that they are considering the idea of allocating a part of the rupees available under the repayment account to importers through auctions. The proposal is, however, at the preliminary stage and would involve using only a part of the annual repayment funds. The first experimental auction is yet to take place and the two governments have agreed to consult each other on this issue.

Creation of free trade zones

34. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest proposals for creating Free Trade Zones in the country;

(b) the names of cities, towns or areas for which proposals have been received for the creation/set-up of such Free Trade Zones;

(c) the details of proposal from the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat in this regard; and

(d) the criterion for creating free trade zones in the country?